

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 35, Number 10

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, January 27, 1972

PRAB Conducts First Hearing On Lake Park Redevelopment

by Roberta McNamara

Last Wednesday, January 19, the first of three PRAB hearings on the redevelopment and improvement of the Lake Park and Braden Field was held at the Recreation Center. Chairman Joseph O'Laughlin presided, and PRAB members Gerald Ross, Nancy Neupert, Sandra Bracken, and Joseph Wilkinson were also present. Darald Lofgren, Recreation Director, presented the city's proposed plan, and a questionnaire on use of the Lake Park and the recreational needs and desires of people present was handed out for completion. Among those present, about twenty people came to express their apprehension that the proposed changes would destroy the natural habitat of the lake, would delete free play areas for youth not involved in organized sports, and would infringe on privacy of Boxwood residents. Throughout the meeting, O'Laughlin suggested that these people take their discontent to council.

The report presented by Lofgren was the modification by city staff members of T.N. Donovan and Associates' recommendations for Braden Field and the Lake Park. The city's report divided recommendations into these areas:

Main Entrance at Lake

- (1) Construction of group picnic pavilion, including comfort station and concession stand.
- (2) Enlargement of parking lot and improvement of road and pedestrian entrances, including the erection of needed information signs.
- (3) Development of picnic facilities, and a portion of a paved walkway system.

Parcel 7

- (1) Construction of city-wide and neighborhood facilities, baseball and football fields, lighted tennis courts, and tot playground. Activity areas will be separated by differences in grade elevations and use of earth embankments.
- (2) Development of a buffer of trees along Crescent, Lastner Lane and Ivy.

Braden Field

- (1) Conversion of baseball field to a lighted softball field.
- (2) Lighted tennis courts and some additional courts.
- (3) Improvement of handball courts.
- (4) Construction of new parking facility at Youth Center.

Other Features

The staff plan calls for detailed topographic surveys, pollution controls, stream channel improvements. Innovations also include bicycle trails, wildlife sanctuary, play area near Jaycee Center, warming pit for ice skaters, fishing platform, relocation of band-stand, and fountains.

After the presentation the floor was opened for discussion. Mrs. Norberg from Lakeside noted that a fountain spraying in the middle of the lake was inappropriate for a rustic lake park. Loren Linstrom from Boxwood was concerned with the aesthetics of a high fence between the parking lot and the entrance.

The Pavilion

The next topic was the proposed pavilion on the North Shore. Some felt that the structure would be an eyesore, and that it would obstruct the view of the Lake. Jordan Choper of Woodland Hills mentioned that the site for the pavilion

was an area of erosion and questioned the plans in view of the need for soil control. Joe Wilkinson said that a topographical study would have to be considered. Mrs. Norberg commented that the eastern shore is a breeding ground for wild ducks, and perhaps the city could prevent boats from entering that area and disrupting ducks, as has been common practice.

Braden Field

Attention then focused on the Braden Field plans. Choper noted that the city has a large task in trying to create respect for city property. He felt that the city could go broke just by replacing bulbs on the walkway. Lofgren said that the lights could be mercury vapor, which can be placed high up at a cost of \$25 versus \$4 for an ordinary bulb.

Discussion then moved to the bay area and the south shore. It was felt the natural bog area should be preserved, since bogs are becoming rare. Mrs. Norberg felt that a buffer of trees along Crescent, Lastner Lane and Ivy.

See LAKE PARK, page 4

Mayor to Appear on TV

Mayor Richard Pilski and other area mayors will appear on WTTG, Channel 5, on Sunday, January 30, from 2 to 3 p.m. in a special program to assist the United Cerebral Palsy Fund, 244-7476.

Pilski has recently been named to the Steering Committee for the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). He will represent cities having populations of fewer than 100,000.

Bridge Expert Honored

Dale Frese, a nationally recognized Life Master of Bridge, and holder of many championship titles, received a standing ovation from leading area experts last week when he was awarded the trophy for "Best Player of the Year" by George Lassise, Director of the Cheverly Bridge Club. Despite his obvious worry concerning Mrs. Mae Frese's reaction to enlarging an already massive silver cleaning chore, Frese demonstrated that the title was well deserved by winning a resounding first place in the "duplicate" game which followed the ceremony. Frese lives at 11 Lakeside Dr.

WHAT GOES ON

Thursday, Jan. 27 - 7:45 p.m. — GHI Board meets, Hamilton Pl.

Friday, Jan. 28 — 8:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Co-op Hospitality Room

Monday, Jan. 31 — 8 p.m. Public Meeting on Citizen Involvement in Environment, City Offices.

Wed., Feb. 2 — 8 p.m. Nat. Org. For Women, Co-op Hospitality Room.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS

by Sandra Barnes

Because the Jewish Community Center often makes its facilities available to the general public, the city council, at its January 24 meeting, agreed that it would share on a fifty-fifty basis the cost of improving Westway Road where it intersects with Ridge Road. The city will construct the curbs and gutters, while the JCC will take care of the necessary piping and sodding. The JCC plans to complete its share ahead of the city's because of the planned construction of its parking facilities. Cost for the project, originally estimated at \$8,000 was whittled down to \$5,600 because of modifications agreed to between the JCC and the city. Every effort will be made to preserve the trees, affirmed city manager James Giese.

Further, the city council passed a motion stating that any assessments against churches for the construction of walks or roadways would be shared on an equal basis, since the facilities within the churches are of public benefit.

An effort by councilwoman Rhea Cohen to change the standing rules for city council meetings regarding dividing a question at the request of one member was defeated. Other members felt Robert's Rules already provide for this procedure when a question has several parts which can stand on their own; thus the motion lost 4-1.

City solicitor, Emmett Nanna strongly urged council not to act on any matter unless it had background information on the subject. This issue came up when councilwoman Betty Maffay asked the members of council to go on record as supporting Governor Marvin Mandel's gun control legislation. Council demurred because no one other than Mrs. Maffay had read the proposed bill. In the words of councilman Charles Schwan, "It would be easy to vote my prejudice," but he felt council had better see copies of the bill before acting.

It was agreed by council that a letter would be sent to the WMA Transit Company praising its improved morning rush-hour service. Also the city manager was again instructed to look into the matter of providing the city with better bus service. Subsidizing WMA, operating a separate city bus service, and the possibility of purchasing a DC Transit minibus were all suggested as possibilities.

Peter J. Waters and the Rev. Edward Birnes were re-appointed to three-year terms on the Community Relations Advisory Board.

Two letters received by council and read by the city clerk commended and chastised the council. In the first, council was praised by the Greenbelt Jaycees for its accomplishments in 1971, particularly in the environmental field. In the other letter, council was reprimanded by the Civic Federation for "misrepresenting" the federation and one of its members, Councilwoman Cohen.

City manager Giese was given permission to miss a council meeting in June in order to attend a Managerial Grid Seminar in Orono, Maine.

COUNCIL HEARS TESTIMONY ON PACKAGE SEWER PLANT

by Al and Elaine Skolnik

A tertiary sewage treatment plant with advanced technological features will produce high-quality effluent and present no hazard to health, provided the plant is properly designed, well-supervised, and contains certain built-in safeguards. This was the consensus of the two experts who testified before the city council on Monday, January 24, in connection with the desirability of a temporary package plant for the Greenbriar and Glen Ora apartment projects on the Smith-Ewing tract east of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

Dr. John Thomas Cookson, Jr., who is being employed by the Greenbriar developers, Alan Kay and associates, to consult on the design of the treatment plant, answered questions from council and a probing, sometimes skeptical audience for over two hours. The University of Maryland professor of civil engineering stressed that the proposed plant, to be constructed by the Westinghouse Corporation, will contain the most advanced processes and will surpass State requirements for water quality standards.

Dr. Perry Stearns, county health officer, concurred with most of Dr. Cookson's observations. He explained that he had originally opposed the package treatment plant because of the bad experience that the county has had with secondary-type treatment plants and because the Greenbriar plant would discharge effluent into an intermittently dry stream bed.

However, he said that if all the engineering refinements described by Dr. Cookson are worked into the plant, it will certainly be better than most other plants in the county. The safeguards being proposed, he said, would do much to minimize the worries he had over discharging effluent into an intermittent stream. "It is possible," he said, "that the discharge may be of higher quality than that of the

Financing on Permanent Sewage for Greenbriar

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission on January 13 approved some requests and denied other requests submitted by Greenbriar developer Alan Kay regarding financing arrangements for the permanent sewage hookup for his 1,193-unit project on the Smith-Ewing tract east of Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

First, WSSC scaled down the charge to Greenbriar for construction of the force main and Beaver Creek pumping station to be located on the northern tip of the Smith-Ewing tract. This pumping station will be a permanent one and is a replacement for a normal gravity sewer. Since only 88 percent of the design flow to the pumping station will originate from the Greenbriar apartments, WSSC thought it appropriate to apportion the cost accordingly. A new figure of \$207,125 was agreed upon (after further adjustments for sewer use charge).

Second, WSSC turned down a request that the developer be charged only a portion of the cost of the Brier Ditch pumping station, which is to be located south of the Capital Beltway. This pumping station would serve both the Greenbriar and Glen Ora projects, by which sewage would be diverted from the Anacostia drainage basin and pumped to the Bald Hill Branch Trunk for transport to the Western Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant. The developer contended that this station will serve other property, but WSSC ruled that Brier Ditch station will be a temporary facility (to be abandoned when the Anacostia moratorium is lifted) and will serve the developer's property only. On that basis, WSSC said that the developer should bear the entire cost of \$202,000.

Third, WSSC agreed to the developer's posting a bond or its equivalence to cover the estimated cost, with his actual share being based on the final construction cost.

As soon as the developer meets the WSSC conditions, engineering plans will be drawn up and rights-of-way will be acquired.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SEWER PLAN

A public hearing to amend the County's Ten Year Water and Sewer Plan to permit the installation and use of a temporary package sewage treatment plant for the Greenbriar and Glen Ora apartment complexes will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 11 a.m. in the County Council's Hearing Room at the Courthouse in Upper Marlboro.

receiving stream."

Need Safeguards

Both Cookson and Stearns, however, stressed the need for proper maintenance and supervision over the plant. Cookson said: "A few mechanical failures can occur even under a consistent maintenance program. However, by providing design flexibility, a waste treatment plant can be operated in a manner that eliminates the possibility of reduced efficiency as a result of mechanical failure."

With certain safeguards, Cookson said, it is highly unlikely that a mechanical failure will ever affect the treatment efficiency. "The only remaining problem," he visualized, "is human failure; i.e., a failure to take the necessary corrective steps in case of a malfunction. If the plant is placed under continuous supervision by qualified personnel, that danger, too, can be avoided."

Stearns stressed that the safeguards should include (1) a large surge tank to equalize the flow between peak and low usage periods; (2) a recycling capability, so that if any unit of the plant falls below the expected standard of treatment, the sewage could be sent back through the plant to insure proper treatment; (3) a double, completely independent, power supply; (4) the plant run by WSSC using a trained and experienced maintenance crew; and (5) closing of the plant as soon as public sewage facilities become available.

In stating the case for the last point, Stearns explained that a large public sewage plant is bound to have a larger safety factor than small community plants. Richard Schifter, representing the Greenbriar developer, said that it will be the desire of the developer to hook up with the permanent system as soon as possible since the costs of the temporary package plant are being borne entirely by the developer.

Virus Effects

The greatest challenge to Dr. Cookson's testimony came with respect to the risk of virus disease in the effluent. He told the meeting that 99.9995 percent virus removal can be achieved through tertiary processes and disinfection units using residual chlorine or ozone and excess lime. "This," he said, "would provide a virus concentration of about 5 viruses per 1,000 liters of water, less than found in river waters presently being processed for drinking waters."

But Dr. Sidney Shifron, a research bio-chemist with the National Institutes of Health, was skeptical as to the claims for virus inactivation. He observed that it only takes a few viruses to create a health hazard and that there will be no easy way of measuring just how effective the plant will be in removing the viruses.

He said that he would have no concern if the effluent were piped away to Blue Plains, since he recognized the great advances embodied in the proposed plant, but the discharge of the effluent into an

See SEWAGE PLANT, p. 8

PUBLIC MEETING

On Monday, January 31, 1972, at 8:00 P.M., the City Council of Greenbelt will hold a Public Meeting to discuss obtaining greater citizens involvement in the consideration of environmental proposals and activities and to discuss the possibility of establishing a citizens committee. Representatives from Greenbelt organizations and interested citizens are invited to attend this meeting.

Gudrun H. Mills, City Clerk

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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Volume 35, Number 10

Thursday, January 27, 1972

Balancing The Scale

The issue of a temporary package sewage treatment plant for the Greenbriar apartment project on the Smith-Ewing tract essentially boils down to whether the project is thought to be of such urgent nature as to warrant approval of this installation during a period when there is a State-imposed moratorium on sewage hookups to the permanent WSSC system.

Unfortunately, the issue has been clouded by other considerations: There are those who oppose the package plant mainly because they are opposed to any apartment development of the Smith-Ewing tract. They cling to the hope that, if the Greenbriar project is delayed long enough or killed, the tract, which was zoned for R-30 apartments long before Greenbriar was a gleam in the developer's eye, will somehow be downgraded and zoned for something less dense than apartments.

On the other hand, there are those who feel that the proposed "luxury-type" apartment project should be encouraged to proceed as rapidly as possible because of the benefits to the county and city in terms of additional tax revenues generated and recreational facilities provided (including the donation by the developer of 5 acres of open space), when compared to what a conventional R-30 garden-type project would produce. Especially, they fear that failure to provide sewage facilities for the project would cause its collapse and eventually result in the construction of "ordinary run-of-the-mill" apartments on the tract.

It thus follows that the former group tends to see nothing good and the latter group nothing bad about a temporary package treatment plant, when the real situation is something in between.

Scientists in the field are convinced that tertiary sewage plants (such as is proposed in the package treatment plant) are the wave of the future. Because of technological developments, it is generally acknowledged that such plants can be guaranteed to produce effluent of "drinking water" quality if sufficient sums of money are spent.

Unfortunately, only limited experience exists with these advanced plants and little data have been accumulated regarding the consequences of inadequate design, plant malfunction, and operational errors. Conceivably a plant, if not operated or designed properly, could create a health hazard by discharging poorly treated sewage into a stream bed that some of the time would have no diluting water (as would be the case here in Greenbelt). Reportedly, built-in safeguards could reduce this risk to a minimum.

Nevertheless, what must be weighed is whether any risk — slim and remote as it may be — should be taken to insure the immediate development of the Greenbriar project. **We think not.** However desirable the Greenbriar project may be per se, we do not deem it of such high priority in the social value scale as to warrant circumvention of the moratorium by the use of a package sewage treatment plant. As the Greenbelt city council understood at the time it approved a special exception for the Greenbriar complex, the development was to take its turn along with other pending requests for permanent sewage hookups.

We can visualize instances where Greenbelters might very well wish to take such a risk — for example, in connection with the construction of badly needed public facilities. We do not think Greenbriar is one of these instances.

CITY NOTES

Was it a rainy day, or was it not? Apparently not all citizens of Greenbelt could agree about whether the weather on January 21 was too wet to set out papers for recycling. After an initial decision not to carry out the collection, city officials changed their minds when they discovered a thin sprinkling of papers set out throughout the city. About four tons were collected and recycled.

A simple design for a decorative enclosed map for the Southway entrance of the city has been drawn up by the architectural staff of Greenhorne and O'Mara. A glass case, framed in wood, will be mounted on decorative brick columns. The city is at present looking for a mason to do the brick work.

New signs to mark the four Greenbelt streets that intersect with Greenbelt Rd. have been prepared for the city by the county Public Works Dept. Large, square signs, they will show the street name prominently, with Greenbelt, Md. in smaller letters underneath. These are especially needed for the Edmonston Rd. and Cherrywood intersections, where Greenbelt is north of the highway and Berwyn Heights, with different street names, is south. Formal permits must be received from the State High-

way Administration before the new signs can be installed. Verbal acceptance of the signs, however, has already been received.

Because of bad weather, the Public Works Dept. has concentrated recently on such indoor jobs as grinding glass for recycling and repairing city vehicles. The auto mechanic recently relined brakes in one vehicle and installed a clutch in another. The bulldozer was also prepared for painting.

The Parks crew is still reducing Christmas trees and other brush to mulch with the chipper machine. The ducks at the lake are fed daily.

Sewage Plant Defended

Excerpts from the statement presented to city council on Monday night by Richard Schifter on behalf of the Greenbriar development, appear below.

The developers of Greenbriar have asked for this opportunity to appear before the Council not because we are making another request but merely because we want to be sure that the Council and the residents of Greenbelt are fully and accurately informed on the developers' plans.

As things stand now, the only major problem which remains to be resolved before construction can begin is the matter of sewage treatment. The tract would under normal circumstances be served by the Western Branch Sewage Treatment Plant. However, as that plant will soon be operating at capacity, the only additional tap-ins which will be permitted are those authorized prior to the imposition of the sewer moratorium in May 1970. We do not qualify on that basis.

We would be allowed to tap into the public sewers flowing to Western Branch once the capacity of that plant has been increased. Plans for such an increase are now being drawn, but the additional facilities are not likely to be completed until some time late in 1973 or early in 1974. Our financial commitments are such that we cannot wait that long. It is for that reason that we have looked for an interim solution to the problem.

The interim solution which we have developed is to install a temporary treatment plant on the Greenbriar site . . . It will have equipment of the same quality that goes into permanent installations . . .

At the proposed plant we are not dealing with the kind of sewage treatment which now takes place at the regional waste treatment plants, known as secondary treatment. Our plant will provide tertiary or advanced waste treatment, the kind of treatment which those concerned with the problems of water pollution propose as a nationwide goal to be reached by 1985.

Tertiary or advanced waste treatment will produce an effluent which is neither a health hazard nor causes ecological damage. It can and, in our case, will provide for the removal of pathogenic organisms, viruses and of phosphates. The technology to accomplish that has been fully developed. Whether or not it is utilized depends on the willingness of the owner of the installation to make the required investment. We are making that investment.

Concern has been expressed about the fact that the effluent from the proposed temporary treatment plant will be expelled into an intermittent stream. Let me point out that the stream does have water in it most of the time. But because there are occasions when it is dry, it has been designated "intermittent." The fact that it is so designated has the result that the Department of Water Resource-

es requires our effluent to be of the highest quality . . .

Under our plans our plant will not only meet the high standards set for us by the Department of Water Resources but substantially exceed them with regard to a number of the standards in question. Therefore, when the stream is indeed dry, the effluent will constitute neither a health hazard nor present ecological problems. When there is water in it, chances are that our effluent will improve the quality of the water in the stream . . .

Granted that the technology of 1972 does indeed permit us to produce effluent of high quality, is there a danger that this sophisticated equipment might break down? The answer to that question is that we propose and the Department of Health will undoubtedly insist that adequate safeguards are provided against breakdowns. We shall, for example, have standby generating capacity. There will be two pumps when one can do the job, four filters when three can do the job, etc. Beyond that, there will be storage capacity which will permit the accumulation of waste water for an additional 24-hour period in the unlikely event that, let us say, two pumps break down at the same time.

One point to keep in mind here is that the plant will be operated and maintained by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at the owners' expense. This means that those in charge of operating the plant will have no incentive to do anything other than provide the greatest care in seeing to it that the plant operates flawlessly . . .

Everything that I have discussed here as to what we propose to do, both in construction and operation, will be subject to review and final decision by the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. That Department, which imposed the sewer moratorium in the first instance, will, of course, require us to eliminate all potential health hazards.

To sum up, let me emphasize once more that we do not plan to build and leave. The developers of Greenbriar expect to retain their ownership interest and will be responsible for the management of Greenbriar for years to come. It will be in their self-interest not only to live up to their obligations to the City of Greenbelt but also to maintain a development which will attract the tenants that will have to be attracted if the developers are to meet their financial obligations to the mortgage holder. As the proper operation of the entire Greenbriar project will be their responsibility, the developers thus have a vital continuing interest in seeing to it that the plant is properly designed, properly built and properly operated.

Auditions for Play

University Theatre of the University of Maryland announces open auditions for their first production of 1972, **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**, on February 1 through 4. All auditions are by appointment only. Interested persons should sign up for an appointment on the sheets posted outside of the Experimental Theatre in the Tawes Fine Arts Building, College Park. Performances are scheduled for March 22 and 26. For further information regarding auditions and tickets, contact the box office at 454-2201, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

BOOK DISCUSSION

A book discussion on "Chariots of the Gods? - Unsolved Mysteries of the Past" by Erich von Daniken, translated by Michael Heron, will be held at the Greenbelt Library on Tuesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. Call or visit the library after February 1st. Books for March & April sessions to be announced.

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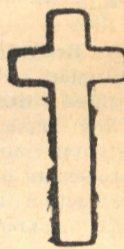
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Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Phone 345-5111

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

(Mowatt Memorial) 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Md. Telephone 474-9410

Rev. Clifton Cunningham, Pastor - Tel. 474-3381

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

(Nursery through Kindergarten at 11:00)

Church School (Kindergarten through adults) 9:30 A.M.

9:45 A.M.	Sunday School	6:00 P.M.	Training Union
11:00 A.M.	Morning Worship	7:00 P.M.	Evening Worship
7:30 P.M. Wednesday	Midweek Service		

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Letters To The Editor

Irresponsible Hazard

Citizens of Greenbelt: Look around you and you'll find that much of what you like about your city is a result of careful, responsible planning for the benefit of the people that live there. You may also find that what you don't like—such as the major highways that slice up the city, lack of adequate access roads to Spring Hill Lake, high density apartments—is a result of developer-oriented political decisions (zoning exceptions, etc.). A similar problem may arise in the proposed Greenbriar "temporary" sewage treatment plant. It benefits mainly Alan Kay, the developer, and, perhaps, the politicians who stand to benefit from his favors.

Sewage — ¼ million gallons daily!— hopefully, treated, will make its way through a presently dry stream bed where children play, in old Greenbelt, and into the same Indian Creek that floods the Spring Hill Lake golf course. The Greenbelt land involved may someday be city park land. It is hard to believe that even running treated sewage through parkland can be good for the people. The health hazard posed by the viruses, some of which may pass through the plant unmolested, is reason enough to oppose the project. No testing of viruses is contemplated. The attendant odor will add to the nuisance. We are not told of the plant's performance in nitrate removal, nor of the obnoxious hydrogen sulfide gas which will probably arise from the sulfides in the sewage. This will all be aggravated by the inevitable power and mechanical failures, leaving the city with the recourse stated by City Attorney Nanna: shovel and bucket.

At Monday's City Council meeting, about four hours of testimony was heard, yet no mention was ever made as to WHY the City needs this plant. Much was said to the contrary. Only one member of council has consistently been opposed to this plant. Is this what you elected members of council to do for you? GHI has come out opposing the project. You, as citizens, should make council aware of any objections you may have to the irresponsible hazard that is planned.

Lorene Hanna, Paul M. Rall, Jean Turkiewicz, Jan M. Turkiewicz, Stuart Jordan
R. J. Fitzenreiter, Wm. Behring
R. G. Stone, Walter W. Anderson

News Review Applauded

In response to Sidney Brown's letter which was published in the January 13 edition of the News Review, I would like to applaud the News Review for putting your story on his "small erosion and pollution problem" in your list of "Top Ten Stories." It's not at all strange that Mr. Brown would myopically and condescendingly view your story as a disservice to him, the community and journalism in general. Nor is it strange that Mr. Brown arrogantly refers to your small newspaper as "pip-squeak," that this small newspaper "can't see the good that is being done due to its unhealthy search for evil," or that your newspaper is "so blinded by your unholy search to find someone doing something wrong so that you can debase him . . ."

Your story was particularly newsworthy because it was the first real action by County Executive Gullett to stop such notorious developers as Mr. Brown from continuing to ignore existing ordinances. It's unfortunate that Mr. Brown regards county action requiring him to conform to existing county and state laws as merely the "pet project of a minute segment of the community," but this ignorant attitude is not untypical of some businessmen who would rather pursue the buck than pay the actual costs of developing such a shopping center. This cost is one that should be borne by the landowners and developers, but which has been borne by the taxpayers in the past. Hopefully this action will be a precedent which future county administrations will follow vigorously.

Keep up the good work.

John B. Hannon, Jr.

"Cool" Gladly Lost

In the account of the January 10, 1972 city council meeting written by your reporter, Mr. McGee, he stated that "at one point Thomas White lost his cool". I assume Mr. McGee was referring to the point in the discussion about sewage treatment plants where Mayor Pilski referred to the provisions in our City Charter which would protect the citizens against any health hazard that developed from a deficient treatment plant. At which point I asked the Mayor if he would explain such provisions. The Mayor deferred to the City Solicitor who was present at the meeting, and the City Solicitor first offered that a bucket and shovel brigade could be formed. Upon being told that a serious reply was desired, the City Solicitor replied "Well! Under the provisions of the charter the city could shut it down." To this I exclaimed "What the hell will that do to the hazard". If that is losing my cool, it is gladly lost.

Later on at the same meeting, Mr. McGee participated in the discussion by suggesting that a pipe could be used to transport the treated sewage to a running stream to meet the objections of those who did not like the idea of the treated sewage being discharged into a dry stream bed. Well, Mr. McGee, I would rather lose my cool than flip my lid!

In fairness to Mr. McGee, however, it must be very difficult to report objectively on city council actions and discussions that might reflect badly on the decisions of the previous council of which he was a member. That city council should have addressed itself to the lack of sewer service for the Greenbriar tract when it approved the special exception. It did not, the county council did not, and now Greenbelt is faced with a serious threat to its health and safety as well as an ecological hazard.

Thomas X. White

(Editor's Note: The reporter covering the Greenbriar sewage treatment plant at the Jan. 10, 1972 city council meeting was Elaine Skolnik, not Bob McGee.)

Greenbelt Comes First

The past city council, the one in existence before September, usually was on the side of the developers. When a non-profit group of Greenbelters made a proposal for senior citizen housing, they were put down in short order and offered no encouragement. Some months later a developer came before council with a proposal for Greenbriar. Council at first turned the proposal down. However, the representatives of the developer were heard at length and were given every consideration. A short time later council approved Greenbriar despite the fact council had agreed the development would overload roads and intersections in Greenbelt and create other serious problems.

The proposed sewage plant is one that will obviously aid Greenbriar. From all I have read and heard on the matter I do not believe it is in the best interests of Greenbelt. I hope the present city council will join with Mrs. Cohen and side with the citizens of Greenbelt first and place the private developers second.

Robert S. Auerbach

Compare Other Malls

For six years I have resided in Springhill Lake. Last week while visiting the bookstore at the Enclosed Mall Regional Shopping Center in Prince George's County, I noticed water pouring from the ceiling onto the magazines and customers reaching for such. Along the mall floor I seemed to recall several cracks in the cement about 7-10 feet long. Later in the parking lot the pavement seemed to disappear from beneath the car wheels at intervals. I suggest you all visit the other enclosed mall centers in Fairfax and Montgomery counties, then compare. The other two seem to lack the "small erosion and pollution problem," which S. Brown mentioned in his letter to the editor.

Judy B. Edwards

Risky Operation

Powerful economic pressures are forcing a sewage plant on Greenbelt. Although dozens of residents, including the GHI board of directors, have expressed their disapproval of the project, not one Greenbelt citizen has supported it—except county councilman Francis White, who introduced two resolutions and a bill on the subject.

At the last city council meeting, the invited expert Dr. Cookson was identified as a consultant for Alan Kay's Glen Ora Apartment corporation . . . Tom White responded that the developer is trying to sell us a sewage plant . . . Cookson said there is no model plant to view anywhere in the country of the same size, type and manufacture as is proposed for Greenbriar . . . Al Skolnik asked if Greenbelt is going to be an experimental city in sewers as well as in planning . . . County Health Officer Stearns said there is no regular testing of sewage effluent for viruses and heavy metals such as lead . . . virologist Shiffrin said that even a small amount of live virus left in treated sewage would endanger public health . . . Cookson claimed that 99.995%, in his conservative estimate, would be killed by the treatment, but told Jim Harris that there would be no virus tests run at the plant to prove it . . . agricultural economist Dr. Foster stated that the chlorine in the effluent would kill plant and animal life along the stream valley . . . Cookson did not know the loading of mineral salts to be expected in the treated sewage . . . Nancy Neupert said tree kills could result from the chemical changes to be expected in the Parcel 1 valley . . . Joe Wilkinson wanted to know why nobody was concerned about breakdowns and the plant's small holding capacity . . . Cookson said failures are likely to be only minor, and that sewage would not need to be stored for more than 48 hours . . . Wilkinson then asked if needed parts and repairmen would be standing by . . . a company engineer answered that he couldn't remember where the nearest service center is located . . . I asked how soon the Health Officer would know about a breakdown . . . Dr. Stearns said he would read about it after the fact, in the monthly report, unless he were called in at the time of the incident . . . and so it went.

The city council has seen no building plans, only a schematic flow diagram showing circles and squares. What about the green-space that this plant will rob from Greenbriar? How long would the "temporary" plant operate? According to Baltimore health officials, the Western Branch plant will not be ready to take Greenbriar sewage until mid-1975, at the earliest. The city has no written guarantees or promises concerning the construction, maintenance, efficiency or any other phase of the proposed sewage treatment plant.

As a member of the Greenbelt city council, I cannot approve of such a risky operation. I was elected to serve the public, and I simply will not work for a private interest.

Anyone who shares my views should certainly attend the Monday, Feb. 7 City Council meeting at 8 p.m., and the Tuesday, Feb. 8 County Council meeting at 11 a.m. in Upper Marlboro. On both dates, hearings will be held on the Greenbriar sewage plant.

Rhea Cohen

Adult Ed Courses

Minimizing your income tax obligations, understanding the stock market, speed reading, math review, photography and art will be among the subjects offered during the spring semester at University College, the University of Maryland's evening division of continuing education for adults.

Several specialized courses for women will also be offered in the areas of interior decorating, home repairs, woodworking, career counseling and decision making.

A copy of the schedule may be obtained free of charge by telephoning 454-2322.

Hard to Sympathize

I find it difficult to sympathize with Sidney Brown's complaint that the opening of his "Enclosed Mall Regional Shopping Center" did not make the "Ten Top Stories of 1971."

If Mr. Brown might place himself for a moment in the position of a resident of Springhill Lake who has had to view his eroding mountains for years and who has had to clean his car weekly from the dust that blows off them and to clean his shoes daily from the mud that flows from them, he might be able to see why the conquering of erosion was a bigger story.

If Mr. Brown feels that the opening of Beltway Plaza still deserves a rating, perhaps he would explain how his attempt to duplicate stores and services that are but ten minutes away in larger shopping centers is beneficial to the community considering the price of overcrowding Greenbelt Road. A comparison between his enclosed mall and the other three in the Washington area might also be revealing.

I must admit that his shopping center does uniquely feature caricature artists, sitting perhaps in one of the largest studios in the world.

Kenneth Pugh

No "Safe Little Island"

Last week's "Letters to the Editor" carried a criticism of my vote on allowing hedges seven feet high — which the Aesthetics Committee had recommended to the GHI board.

Anyone who attended the Dec. 28 meeting can tell "Name Withheld" that I did not want, or vote for, seven foot high hedges. I voted for a motion to reduce this height but, unfortunately, (1) the motion only received four "yes" votes and did not pass, and (2) the News Review reporter recorded my vote incorrectly.

I have been warning my fellow board members at every opportunity that Greenbelt is no longer a "safe little island," and we should do everything we can to insure the safety of those who use our inner walkway system. In my opinion, allowing seven foot hedges only gives a lurking criminal a convenient hiding spot from which to launch an attack.

Norman W. Weyel

Recreation Review

Kava Dance

This Saturday night Kava will present a truly sensational 5 piece rock band: "Woodpecker." All senior high teens are invited and dress is casual. The dance will be held from 8 - 11 p.m. and there will be a minimal admission charge.

Businessmens Noon Hour Exercise

Through this program participants will be able to rejuvenate neglected muscles and relax muscular and mental tension. The course uses a wide variety of conditioning programs including: basketball, volleyball, jogging, badminton and weight training through the use of the newly acquired 15-man circuit trainer. Participants will receive individual instruction on how best to condition themselves. This program occurs on Mon., Wed., & Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For further information call the Greenbelt Recreation Department at 474-6878.

Family Roller Skating

The Greenbelt Recreation Department has decided to initiate a Family Roller Skating Program, offering not only a tremendous opportunity for physical exercise, but a chance for mothers and fathers to participate along with their children in a truly enjoyable program. This program occurs on Sundays from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. and all families are invited. A minimal fee will be charged.

Pre-Teen Club

The Greenbelt Recreation Department has renovated the structure of its Pre-Teen Club by introducing some innovations, including the presentation of entertaining films. (Ex: Spanky and Our Gang) and the awarding of prizes to winners of various group activities such as pingpong, bumper pool and crab soccer. This program occurs every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Ridge Road Center and is free to all pre-teens.



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LAKE PARK from p. 1

fer of trees near the Beltway would enhance the view and cut down on noise. Douglas Hawes questioned the feasibility and expense of an Organic Garden. O'Loughlin explained that it would be used for demonstration such as growing radishes in newspaper mulch.

Maintenance

Hawes felt that since the city has difficulty maintaining what it now has, what would adding more do? O'Loughlin agreed, citing the problems of acquiring adequate funds from council to maintain Braden Field. Mrs. Norberg felt that the money used for redevelopment should be diverted to control erosion, reclaim Braden Field and maintain what the city has already.

Questions on Parcels 7 & 8

Werner Neupert asked if anything in Parcels 7 and 8 was set aside for informal recreation. O'Loughlin stated that the field would be free until 5 p.m. when coaches would be home from their regular jobs to coach the teams. Several people including teenager Nathan Hughes felt that the changes would benefit only the minority of youth involved in organized sports.

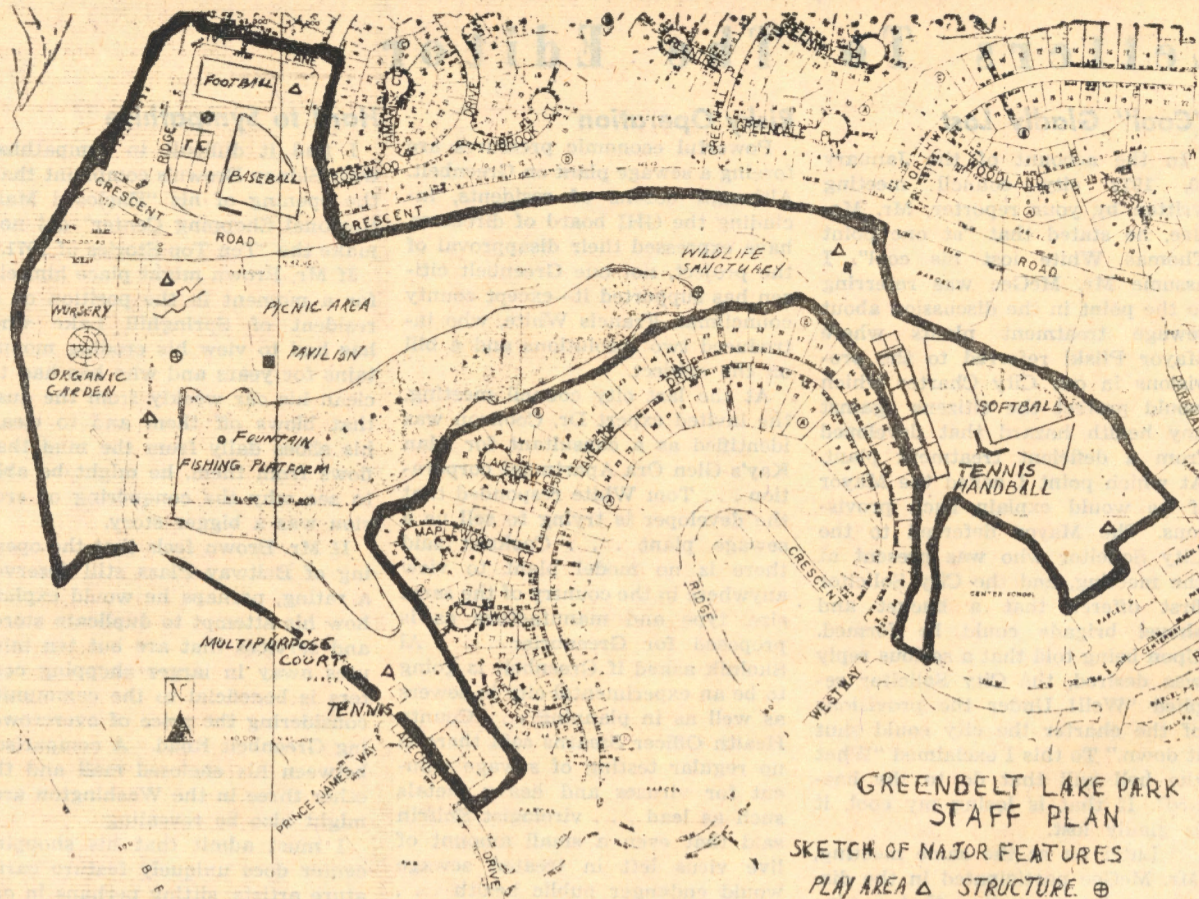
Wilkinson and O'Loughlin pointed out the trend in recreation to not use a field part of the year so that turf can grow back. James Parochetti said he was connected with the Agronomy Department of the U of Md., and that Braden Field could be used all year if turfed and tiled properly. Parochetti volunteered his services and also decided to "volunteer" Hawes who is in the Applied Science Department of the university.

Boxwood Reaction

Several Boxwood residents focused on the placement of the fields so near their homes. Mrs. Hardy felt that if people had a choice they would not buy a home near an athletic field. Elaine Nussbaum felt that although the need for the playing field existed, Boxwood residents should not have to suffer the influx of traffic from teams coming to town. Parochetti noted that Parcels 7 and 8 are at one of the main entrances into town, and therefore not suitable for a ballfield. O'Loughlin replied that a buffer strip had already been planned.

General Conclusions

Edward Karlander of Lakeside summed up the feelings of the group by saying the city should plant more trees, cut noise pollution, air pollution, and soil pollution and that the group should fight against overdevelopment of the lake park. There should be no cement and no big structures. O'Loughlin ended the meeting by urging people to come to council with their feelings.

**New City Parks Director**

A former president of the National Association of Gardeners will assume the post of Parks Director for the city of Greenbelt, City Manager James K. Giese announced at the regular city council meeting on January 24. Dennis Doornekamp, presently Superintendent of the Lindhurst Estate in Tarrytown, N. Y., a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will take up his duties in Greenbelt beginning February 14.

Doornekamp, a native of the Netherlands, where he operated a landscaping business, holds a diploma in horticulture. In addition, he has taken courses in landscaping at Rutgers University since coming to the United States thirteen years ago. He is now a U.S. citizen.

Still a trustee of the National Association of Gardeners, Doornekamp learned of the opening in Greenbelt from the current president of the Association, who is a landscaper for the Soldier's Home in Washington. Doornekamp was also formerly a judge at the International Flower Show in New York. For ten years prior to his position with the Lindhurst Estate, he managed a private estate in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Doornekamp plan to reside in Greenbelt.

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The proper use of the auto horn seems to be a lost art. It is used too little to express a friendly message to let the other guy know you're around, and too often to express wild alarm or to deliver an angry blast.

Knitting lessons sponsored by Prince Georges County Department of Adult Education Monday evenings 7:30 to 9:30, starting January 31, 1972. Beginning and Intermediate classes, held at Beltsville Junior High School. For more information call: 779-8391 or 935-4629.

Our Neighbors

by Elaine Skolnik - 474-6060

Prince Georges County Executive William M. Gullett has appointed Edgar E. Courtemanch of Greenbelt, to serve as a representative on the Washington Suburban Transit Commission. The announcement was made at the County Executive's regular press briefing in Upper Marlboro on January 18.

Ruth Mathes, acting director of the Central Atlantic Environment Service, was confirmed January 20 by the Prince Georges County Council as a supervisor of the Prince Georges Soil Conservation District.

Navy Seaman Robert C. Wilkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Wilkinson of 118 Northway, completed basic Radoman School at Bainbridge, Md.

Birthday greetings on Jan. 31 to Joan Tatum, 1422 Laurel Hill.

Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Coulson of 9332 Edmonston Rd. welcomed the arrival of their first child, Christopher Justin, born December 30, weight 7 lb. 5 oz.

Mr. & Mrs. Elie Cohen, 6208 Breezewood Ct. are the proud parents of a daughter born December 28. Felicia weighed 5 lb. 12 oz.

Michael Kennedy Jones IV, weighing 6 lb., 5 oz., arrived December 29 to join sisters Tammy and Terry in the Michael Jones household, 44-M Ridge Rd.

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Looney, 9130 Edmonston Terr. are the proud parents of a second daughter, Christina Marie; born December 28, Christina weighed 7 lb 8 oz.

Mr. & Mrs. John Regnier, 7010 Hanover Pky., welcomed the arrival of their first child on December 18, a 6 lb. 11 oz. son, Christopher.

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If you **ARTICHOKE** down additional rent increases, we'd like to tell you about a very suitable way to avoid them. Buy this beautiful 3 BR aluminum and shingle rambler in College Park with many extras including sep. dining room and separate building for rec. room for a total price of \$24,900. FHA terms, and \$3,000 total including closing costs should move you in. Monthly payments will total approx. \$220.

ORANGE you ever going to take the plunge away from renting? You can do so in this handsome brick rambler with 3 bedrooms, full basement with large rec. room, large carport, and many extras set amidst stately trees on large lawn in Glen Dale Heights! A real **PICK** at \$35,950!

We have waited a long time to **TURNIP** a home like this one! A spacious brick super Cape Cod in Cheverly proper with 4 bedrooms, sep. din. room, 1/2 acre lot with deep woods in back. Large shady deck all the way across the back; fruitwood kitchen, full basement with garage. Hurry on this one at \$31,950 on FHA terms!

If you **CARROT** all about the very best, see this big split-level, brick and aluminum, with a nice little brick wall all around the property; 3 bedrooms; large rec. room, landscaped level lot, double carport; 2 blocks to Seabrook Shopping Center; all this for \$39,950!

Have you **BEAN** thinking about buying a luxury home without overextending yourself? We have such a home; a large brick rambler with double carport, better than new in hard-to-get Carrollton-Oakwood Knolls. Five bedrooms, 3 baths, cent. a/c, carpeting, you name it, it's here; buy this home right, in the low forties!

Are you **PARSLEY** sold on Greenbelt homes? You'll be fully sold when you see this best of all Greenbelt homes, with a handsome Williamsburg addition, within walking distance of the shopping center. Just reduced this week to \$32,000 for a quick sale!

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SEWAGE PLANT from p. 1
open stream that would be accessible to children bothered him.

Dr. Stearns also questioned the high virus removal percentage figure. He pointed out that the county and State do not require virus tests.

Ecological Effects

Dr. Philip Foster, an ecologist with the University of Maryland, expressed concern that excessive use of chlorine may have adverse ecological effects downstream, especially with respect to fish life. But Cookson responded that chlorine is quickly dissipated when in contact with polluted material. Since the receiving stream is of poor quality, he saw no harmful effects.

Experience

Council member Rhea Cohen wanted to know what the experience has been with respect to tertiary plants in other areas. Cookson said that these plants have different features and that the Greenbriar plant would, in effect, be built to meet special criteria. But, he reiterated, their experience has been good; failures have been of a minimal nature.

Thomas White, from the audience, observed that systems of this type don't always work as planned. Werner Neupert asked what assurance the city had that the plant would perform according to the developer's representations.

Schifter Statement

In a preliminary statement to council, Schifter said that a temporary package plant was being sought because the financial commitments of the Greenbriar project are such that the developer can not wait for the permanent sewer system to be expanded (scheduled for some time late in 1973 or early 1974).

Schifter stressed that the developer is willing to make the investment to assure that the most advanced technological processes for treating sewage are used. He noted that the final decision will rest with the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which will be concerned with eliminating all potential health hazards and assuring that adequate safeguards are provided against breakdowns.

City council, which has yet to take an official position on the sewage treatment plant, said that it will reach its decision at the next council meeting on Monday, February 7. A county council hearing amending the County's Ten-Year Water and Sewer Plan to permit the installation and use of a temporary package plant for Greenbriar will be held the next day, February 8.

Questions and Answers

Some of the questions and the replies follow:

Q. What about sludge? A. Cookson and Stearns did not consider this a serious problem, noting that the amount of sludge would be small and trucked away.

Q. What if there is a back-up in sewage? A. Stearns - There's not likely to be a total failure. "If you have dual systems, the most you can get is diminution of treatment, not total absence."

Q. Will the effluent from the plant be tested? A. Stearns - Yes, on a daily basis.

Q. How many operators will supervise the treatment plant? A. Leslie Smith representing Greenbriar - This determination will be made by WSSC. Landover Mall Shopping Center plant is planning to have two at most times.

Q. How about odors? A. Cookson - Odors occur when there is overloading. There will be no overloading and sludge will be covered.

Q. Why is the plant's holding capacity only 24 hours? A. Cookson - Because of all the automatic safeguards, and backup equipment, 24 hours will be adequate to correct a malfunction. Actually the capacity will be more than 24 hours because of the varying volume of flow during the day.

Q. What about salt? A. Cookson - No adverse effect.

Q. Will the discharge of effluent accentuate flood conditions downstream? A. Smith - No, because volume of discharge is so small in relation to the flow of the stream.

Q. Are there any tests for viruses? A. Cookson - Yes, but costs for tests are exorbitant.

Taxpayers Ask IRS

This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U. S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

Q) What is the personal exemption for 1971?

A) The Revenue Act of 1971 increased the allowance for personal exemption to \$675 for the 1971 tax year.

Q) My son earned more than \$675 from a summer job last year. Can I still claim him as a dependent?

A) If your son was a full-time student regardless of age for some part of each of any five months of 1971 or was less than 19 years old at the end of the year, you can claim him as a dependent regardless of how much money he made, provided you meet all the dependency tests, including furnishing over one-half of your son's total support.

Q) I received a refund on my 1970 state income tax in 1971. Do I have to report this as income on my 1971 Federal income tax return?

A) You must include in income for the year of receipt that part of the refund that gave you a tax benefit in the earlier year. For example, if you took a deduction for state income taxes on your 1970 Federal income tax return and received the full benefit of the deduction through a reduction in tax, you must include the refund as income on your 1971 Federal return, the refund is not to be included on your 1971 Federal return.

Q) Are all medical expenses deductible?

A) No. Except for medical insurance premiums, only those unreimbursed medical expenses you paid that exceed three percent of your adjusted gross income are deductible. In addition, medical expenses are deductible only if you itemize your deductions. You may deduct one-half of your medical insurance premiums up to \$150 without regard to the three percent limitation with the balance also deductible subject to the three percent rule.

Payments for medicines and drugs may be included in your medical expenses only to the extent they exceed one percent of your adjusted gross income. This excess is then subject to the three percent limitation.

Q) How much money can I earn before I have to file a Federal income tax return.

A) You must file a Federal income tax return if you are single and had income of \$1,700 or more last year (\$2,300 if you are 65 or older) or if you are married and you and your spouse's combined income is \$2,300 or more (\$2,900 if one spouse is 65 or older, \$3,500 if both of you are 65 or older). If you are self-employed and had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more, you must file a Federal income tax return.

Q) Will the IRS figure my tax for me?

A) If your adjusted gross income is \$20,000 or less and consists only of wages or salaries and tips, dividends, interest, pensions, and annuities, the IRS will be glad to compute your tax at your request. However, you must take the standard deduction instead of itemizing your deductions, fill in certain lines, and file your return by April 17, to have the IRS do the figuring for you. Be sure to read the instructions that come with the Form 1040 as to lines that have to be completed.

Q) When will I get my W-2 form from my employer? I can't file my income tax return without it.

A) Employers are required to furnish their employees Wages and Tax Statements, Forms W-2, by January 31, 1972.

TRAFFIC TIP

Each time you squeal your tires to a panic stop, and each time the packages on the rear seat are thrown to the floor, you reveal a failure on your part. You have failed to allow for an adequate cushion of space between your car and the car ahead. That's "living room" between you and the car ahead.

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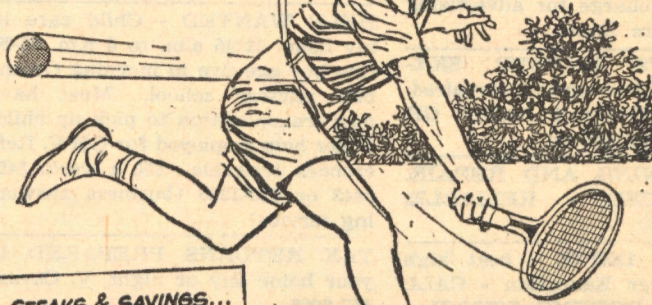


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